

a.) Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 4, line 27 and ending at page 7, line 28 to read as follows.

JP Patent Announcement Hei 9(1997)-508983A (U.S. Patent No. 5,621,571) to Bantli discloses an integrated retroreflective electronic display device. This patent discloses, according to descriptions in its specification, a retroreflective apparatus for visual and electromagnetic data communication, said apparatus comprising retroreflective sheeting for retroreflecting entrance light, said sheeting having visual informations thereon, and comprising a base sheet having a monolayer of retroreflective microspheres which are embedded in one of its surfaces and a regular light reflecting means which is disposed under said microspheres as spaced therefrom by a transparent material; antenna means for electromagnetic communication; and coupling means for allowing coupling to said antenna means.

JP Patent Announcement Hei 11(1999)-505050A (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,391) to Bantli discloses an electronic license plate having a security identification device. According to disclosures of its specification, said patent discloses an electronic license plate architecture for use in an electronic vehicle communication system in which a plurality of remote traffic management stations communicate with the electronic license plate, comprising a license plate portion, including visual identification information and an identification means for storing restricted information, the restricted information including at least one type of vehicle identification information, and wherein the restricted information cannot be altered by the remote stations or by the vehicle; information means for storing unrestricted information, wherein the unrestricted information can be altered by at least one of the remote stations or by the vehicle; communication means, operatively

connected to the identification means and to the information means, for processing communications with the remote stations; antenna means for transmitting and receiving the communications with the remote stations; and attachment means fixed to the vehicle for replaceably attaching the license plate portion on the vehicle, such that the license plate portion can be replaced without having to replace the information means.

JP Patent Publication Hei 4(1992)-229244A (U.S. Patent No. 5,264,063) to Martin discloses a method for making a retroreflective microprismatic sheeting partially free from a metallic layer, said method comprising partially forming an adhesive layer on a metallic deposit layer formed on surfaces of retroreflective microprisms and removing a portion of said metallic layer which is unprotected by said adhesive layer. It also states that the partially provided adhesive layer (protective coating material) is desirably a pressure-sensitive adhesive which will not be unduly affected during a solvent treating step in later processing. Furthermore, as one of the methods for providing said layer, printing is named.

Furthermore, JP Patent Publication Hei 1(1989)-231004A (U.S. Patent No. 4,801,193) to Martin discloses a method for making a retroreflective microprism sheet partially free from a metallic layer, which comprises forming a metallic deposit layer on surfaces of retroreflective microprisms, partially forming an adhesive layer on said metallic deposit layer and removing the metallic layer in the areas unprotected by said adhesive layer; and a method for making a retroreflective microprism sheet partially free from a metallic layer, which comprises partially installing a coating material on the retroreflective microprism surfaces, vapor depositing a metal thereon and removing the partially laid coating material.

Methods of removing vapor-deposited layers with laser also have been generally practiced.

US Patent No. 4,200,875 to Galanos discloses a method of forming an image on an exposed lens type retroreflective sheeting in accordance with a predetermined pattern by a laser method.

Internally illuminated retroreflective display devices are also known.

For example, JP Patent Publication Hei 1 (1989)-298395A (U.S. Patent No. 4,952,023) to Bradshaw discloses “an internally illuminated sign comprising an enclosure transmissive to light on at least one side, designated the front side, and cube corner retroreflective sheeting positioned to reflect light incident on the front of the sign, wherein the cube corner retroreflective sheeting:

(1) comprises a cover layer having a multiplicity of retroreflective cube corner elements and a base layer of transparent material bonded to the cover layer, and

(2) has areas, where the base layer has been bonded to the cover layer, which are:

(a) optically transparent to internal light with an angle of incidence greater than or equal to zero degrees and less than 90 degrees,

(b) interspersed among the areas occupied by cube corner elements, the proportion of such transparent areas to the total sheeting area and their arrangement relative to each other being fixed to allow viewing the sign by means of either internal illumination, retroreflected light, or both.”

Benson discloses:

“an internally illuminated sign comprising a cover which is transmissive to light on at least one side, designated the front side, a cover which reflects light incident on the front of the sign and a retroreflective sheet which is positioned to reflect light incident on the front of the sign”, which sign uses “a partially transparent retroreflective article formed by three intersecting sets of parallel grooves, comprising a base, prismatic elements having lateral faces intersecting the base at base edges, and separation surfaces on the base, in which:

(a) each set of grooves has a groove side angle that is constant for that set;

(b) the separation surfaces are transparent, are bounded by the base edges of the lateral faces of the prismatic elements, lie between the prismatic elements in at least one of the grooves,

and have, taken at any point along any groove in which they lay, curved cross sections taken across that groove.”

The present inventor, et al. also have disclosed, in ~~Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-198371~~, EP 1542197A1, a retroreflective, internally illuminated sign which comprises an information display section having at least one flat or curved surface which retroreflects light coming from the front of said sign and transmits light from the interior of said sign; an illuminator disposed on the back of the information display section; and a housing enclosing and holding these information display section and illuminator, said sign being characterized in that

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, lines 14-19 to read as follows.

The inventor of this invention has disclosed in ~~International Application PCT/JP 02/06070~~ U.S. Publication No. US2004/0218273A1 a retroreflective article with built-in integrated circuit or circuits which is characterized by comprising at least an integrated circuit module which encloses integrated circuits, an optical retroreflective element and a carrier layer for the foregoing, which is an improvement of the above-described invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, lines 13-19 to read as follows..

Furthermore, with micro glass bead units, it is preferred that the metallic thin film layer provided on the micro glass beads does not form a continuous layer among the micro glass beads, but allows the beads to be independent of each other as electrically insulated micro glass bead retroreflective units. As a method for obtaining such a micro glass bead retroreflective unit layer, one disclosed in JP Sho 62 (1987)-121043A (U.S. Patent No. 4,897,136) to Bailey, et al. is suitable.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, lines 7-12 to read as follows.

The surface-protective layer useful for the present invention is not subject to particular limitation, so long as it is optically transparent, transmits radio waves, and is stable to UV rays and moisture from outside, but such materials as disclosed in ~~International Application PCT/JP02/06070~~ U.S. Publication No. US2004/0218273A1 filed by the present inventor can be used.